

79. (Amended) A method for determining the presence of colon cancer in a patient, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a biological sample from the patient;
(b) contacting the biological sample with an oligonucleotide that hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to a polynucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:21;

B'
(c) detecting in the sample an amount of oligonucleotide that hybridizes to the polynucleotide; and

(d) comparing the amount of oligonucleotide that hybridizes to the polynucleotide to a predetermined cut-off value, wherein an increase in the amount of oligonucleotide that hybridizes to the polynucleotide as compared to the predetermined cut-off value indicates the presence of cancer in the patient.

82. (Amended) A method for monitoring the progression of colon cancer in a patient, comprising:

(a) obtaining a biological sample from the patient;
(b) contacting the biological sample with an oligonucleotide that hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to a polynucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:21;

B²
(c) detecting in the sample an amount of oligonucleotide that hybridizes to the polynucleotide;

(d) repeating steps (a)-(c) wherein the biological sample is obtained from the patient at a subsequent point in time; and

(e) comparing the amount of oligonucleotide detected in (d) to the amount detected in (c) wherein an increase in the amount of oligonucleotide in step (d) as compared to the amount of oligonucleotide in step (c) indicates progression of said colon cancer and wherein a decrease in the amount of oligonucleotide in step (d) as compared to the amount of oligonucleotide in step (c) indicates a remission of said colon cancer.

85. (Amended) A diagnostic kit for use in the detection of colon cancer, comprising:

B³ (a) at least one oligonucleotide that hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to a polynucleotide sequence comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) SEQ ID NO:21, and
- (ii) sequences having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO:21;

and

(b) a reporter group for use in a hybridization assay.

Please add new claims 86 and 87 to read as follows:

86. (New) A method for determining the presence or absence of a colon cancer in a patient, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a biological sample obtained from the patient with at least two oligonucleotide primers specific for a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:21 under conditions effective for amplifying an expressed product in an RT-PCR reaction;

(b) detecting in the sample an amount of said product;

(c) repeating steps (a) and (b)

B⁴ (c) comparing the amount of said product to a predetermined cut-off value and therefrom determining the presence of colon cancer in a patient.

87. (New) A method for monitoring the progression of a colon cancer in a patient, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a biological sample obtained from the patient with at least two oligonucleotide primers specific for a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:21 under conditions effective for amplifying an expressed product in an RT-PCR reaction;

(b) detecting in the sample an amount of said product;